

Serial No. 09/401,116

Atty Dkt No. 98-1449

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please ~~cancel~~ claims 2 and 14 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 15-17, and 21-22 in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicants include herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of the amended claims.

1. (AMENDED) A catalyst system for a motor vehicle having an engine with an exhaust port that carries exhaust gases away from the combustion chamber of the engine, wherein the exhaust gases leave the combustion chamber and flow in a downstream direction by first entering the exhaust port, said catalyst system comprising:

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a shell with at least one conduit extending therefrom;

a conically shaped catalyst disposed contiguous to the exhaust port of the engine; and

a main brick catalyst having an angled front face disposed downstream of said conically shaped catalyst, wherein the shell encloses the main brick catalyst and the at least one conduit houses the conically shaped catalyst and the at least one conduit is attached to the engine and circumscribes the exhaust port when attached.

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3. (AMENDED) The catalyst system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said conically shaped catalyst includes a rear face disposed at an angle from said angled front face of said main brick catalyst.

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11.

(AMENDED) A catalyst system for a motor vehicle having an engine with a plurality of exhaust ports that carry exhaust gases away from the combustion chamber of the engine, wherein the exhaust gases leave the combustion chamber and flow in a downstream direction by first entering the exhaust ports, said catalyst system comprising:

a shell with a plurality of conduits extending therefrom,

a plurality of conically shaped catalysts disposed contiguous to the exhaust ports of the engine; and

a main brick catalyst having a front face that includes a plurality of angled surfaces disposed downstream of said conically shaped catalysts, wherein the shell houses the main brick catalyst and the plurality of conduits house the plurality of conically shaped catalysts and the plurality of conduits are attached to the engine and circumscribe the exhaust ports when attached.

12.

(AMENDED) The catalyst system as set forth in claim 11, wherein each of said conically shaped catalysts include a rear face that is substantially parallel to one of said plurality of angled surfaces of said main brick catalyst.

15.

(AMENDED) The catalyst system as set forth in claim 11, wherein each of said conically shaped catalysts include cells having a cross sectional area, said cross sectional area of at least one of said cells of said conically shaped catalysts increases in the downstream direction.

16.

(AMENDED) The catalyst system as set forth in claim 15, wherein each of said conically shaped catalysts include a metallic substrate.

17.

(AMENDED) The catalyst system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said main brick catalyst includes a plurality of cells of a constant cross sectional area.

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21. (AMENDED) A catalyst system for a motor vehicle having an engine with a plurality of exhaust ports that carry exhaust gases from the combustion chamber of the engine, wherein the exhaust gases leave the combustion chamber and flow in a downstream direction by first entering the exhaust ports, said catalyst system comprising:

a plurality of conically shaped catalysts disposed contiguous to the plurality of exhaust ports of the engine, said conically shaped catalysts have a front face and a rear face, said rear face being larger than said front face, each of said conically shaped catalysts also include a metal substrate and a plurality of cells that vary in size, said cell size increasing in the downstream direction;

a shell that includes a plurality of tubes extending therefrom, said plurality of tubes receive said plurality of conically shaped catalysts, said shell includes an exit portion that decreases in diameter in the downstream direction and said tubes are attached to the engine and circumscribe the exhaust ports;

a main brick catalyst disposed within said shell, said main brick catalyst is substantially cylindrical in shape and disposed downstream from said plurality of conically shaped catalysts, said main brick includes an angled front face and a downstream end, said downstream end has a conically shaped formation that decreases in diameter in the downstream direction at a rate greater than the rate at which said exit portion of said shell decreases in the downstream direction, said main catalyst brick includes a ceramic substrate; and

an exhaust pipe attached to said exit portion of said shell.

22. (AMENDED) The catalyst system as set forth in claim 21, wherein said main brick catalyst includes a plurality of angled surfaces interconnected by at least one surface parallel to the exhaust gas flow through said main catalyst brick.